

Field Windbreak Planning and Establishment Training Course - a success

The Eastern Canada Soil and Water Conservation Centre is quite pleased with the outcome of a Field Windbreak Planning and Establishment training session held March 15 and 16, 2010. In its continued efforts to promote and develop Agroforestry practices in New-Brunswick, the Centre was successful in obtaining funding through the NB Growing Forward “Environment Management Planning” program to hold the session.

The session’s primary objective was to provide a two-day training short course to NBDAA field staff, Agri-environmental club coordinators or anyone interested in providing field windbreak planning consultative services to NB agricultural producers. The fifteen seats reserved for the session were filled very rapidly following invitation of potential participants. Mr. André Vézina, Forestry Engineer, Institut de technologie agroalimentaire, LaPocatière, Quebec was the main instructor during the two-day session while Jérôme Damboise with ECSWCC provided some of the New Brunswick experience in Agroforestry project design and establishment.



In past years, the field windbreak training focus in New Brunswick has been on windbreak maintenance for both natural and planted windbreaks. There is a need to continue these training sessions; however a need was also identified to provide training sessions on field windbreak design and establishment.

From the session assessment questionnaire, all the participants indicated that they had found the session very useful and that they were more comfortable with planning windbreaks. However many expressed the need for the establishment of field windbreak demonstration sites in New Brunswick in order to acquire hands-on experience in field windbreak design, establishment and maintenance. They also expressed a need to visit some of the sites in LaPocatière where field windbreaks have been in place for over 20 years.

The Eastern Canada Soil & Water Conservation Centre would like to thank all the participants for having actively taken part in this session. Having everyone contribute was key in really making this an interactive learning activity. The Centre also wishes to thank André Vézina for having accepted to share his knowledge and experience with us. The Centre is also grateful to the NB Department of Agriculture and Aquaculture for having provided funding to hold this event under the ***NB Growing Forward “Environment Management Planning”*** program.